

COMMITTEE ON BORDER RELATIONS
MEETING MINUTES
MAYORS BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 10TH FLOOR
TUESDAY, October 5, 2010, 4:00 PM.

The Committee on Border Relations met at the above place and date.

AGENDA

1. Establish Quorum and Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2010 – (Chairperson Kathleen Walker)
3. Discussion and action: Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan – (IBD, Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.)
4. Discussion and action: Update on Southbound Inspections – (IBD, Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.)
5. Discussion and action on ways to improve public communication to publicize news of activities and initiatives undertaken by the Committee on Border Relations, the City, CBP and others to increase understanding of border issues and improve cross border mobility and trade. – (IBD, Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.)
6. Discussion and action on local initiatives to improve cross border trade and travel:
 - a. Directional and Informational Signage at Paso Del Norte Port of Entry – (CBP, Bill Moloski)
 - b. Bluetooth and RFID Border Wait Time Measurement Initiatives. – (TTI, Rafael Aldrete)
7. Bridge Management Report – (IBD, Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E.)
 - a. Traffic and Revenue Report
 - b. Stanton and Paso Del Norte Project
 - c. Visit to Detroit Ports of Entries
8. **OPEN COMMENT PERIOD:** At the conclusion of all other agenda items, the Committee will allow an open comment period not to exceed thirty minutes, to receive public comment on any matter under the jurisdiction of the Committee. No action will be taken. Speakers in the audience will be allowed a maximum of three minutes and must be signed up prior to the beginning of the open comment period.
9. Adjournment.

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Kathleen Walker called the meeting to order at 4:09 pm. Those present were:

Kathleen Walker – Mayor
Laird Carmichael – D-7
Stephanie Caviness – D-1
Thomas Fullerton, Jr. – D-3
Gerald Smola – D-4
Miguel Escoto – D-8 (at large member)

ABSENT:

Irasema Coronado – D-2
Ivan Ramirez – D-6
Angelica Quintanilla – D-8
Fernando Quintana – D-5
Jorge Salom – Mayor (at large member)
Lilia Ruiz – D-3 (at large member)
Pete Ocegueda – D-8 (at large member)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

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OTHERS PRESENT

Said Larbi-Cherif – International Bridges
Jane Shang – Deputy City Manager
Josette Flores – COEP
Diana Nunez – COEP
Bill Molaski – CBP
Mayra De La Canal – Economic Development
Rafael Aldrete - TTI

Item 2: Approval Of Meeting Minutes for August 3, 2010

Motion made by Mr. Smola, seconded by Ms. Caviness and carried to approve the minutes of August 3, 2010.

AYES: Ms. Walker, Mr. Carmichael, Ms. Caviness, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Smola, Mr. Escoto
NAYS: None

Item 3: Discussion and Action: Update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan

Mr. Said Larbi- Cherif presented an update on the Master Regional Ports of Entry Operational Plan. He spoke on model development framework, potential solutions of screening criteria, commodity flow and socio-economic profile, economic impacts and benefits and on the public involvement activities and website updates. Ms. Jane Shang spoke about the Regional Ports of Entry Advisory Committee of October 7 and encouraged attendance. Discussion followed.

Chair Kathleen Walker requested staff to notify members of CBR regarding the advisory meeting on October 7, 2010 by email and to have committee members advise if they would attend. No more than four members can attend at once in order to avoid a quorum.

Item 4: Discussion and Action: Update on Southbound Inspections

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif gave a presentation on Southbound Inspections and the back up of traffic due to the inspections by CBP and Mexican inspectors. Mr. Laird Carmichael spoke about the delays at the Bridge of the Americas and his experience contacting the El Paso Police Department to request that police officers be placed at BOTA to direct traffic. Discussion followed.

Item 5: Discussion and Action on ways to improve public communication to publicize news of activities and initiatives undertaken by the Committee on Border Relations, the City, CBP and others to increase understanding of border issues and improve cross border mobility and trade.

Discussion regarding ways to improve communication to publicize news of activities undertaken by CBR, the City, CBP and others.

Item 6. Discussion and Action on local initiatives to improve cross border trade and travel:

a. Directional and Informational Signage at Paso Del Norte Port of Entry

Presentation by CBP port director Bill Molaski regarding directional and informational signage at Paso Del Norte POE. He presented a slide show that showed what the signage would look like. The project would be completed around processing traffic. Completion would be in the middle to late November and installation of revolving doors by January 2011. Discussion followed.

b. Bluetooth and RFID Border Wait Time Measurement initiatives

Presentation by Rafael Aldrete of the Texas Transportation Institute regarding Bluetooth and RFID border wait time management initiatives. Discussion followed.

Item 7: Bridge Management Report

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif presented reports on Traffic and Revenue, Stanton and Paso Del Norte Project, and the visit to Detroit Ports of Entries. Discussion followed.

Item 8: Open Comment Period

There were no open comments.

Item 9: Adjournment

Motion made by Ms. Caviness, seconded by Mr. Carmichael and carried to adjourn meeting.

AYES Ms. Walker, Mr. Carmichael, Ms. Caviness, Mr. Fullerton, Mr. Smola, Mr. Escoto

NAYS: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Approved as to form:


Said Larbi-Cherif, P.E., Board Secretary